

## Invercargill Contract Bridge Club Presidents Annual Report 2021

It is with pleasure I present this report to the 62<sup>nd</sup> AGM of the Invercargill Contract Bridge Club.

Firstly, I wish to sincerely thank all our members who have contributed in any way to ensure our club continues to run efficiently & effectively through these turbulent times. The objects of our club, as outlined in the constitution, continue to be met thanks to the contribution of our members. Whether it be dealing the boards, directing a session, series convenor, teaching new and not so new members, club administrator, helping with bar duties, operating the computer, assisting with tournaments, updating the club website, room hire convenor, helping with the library, cleaner or gardener, without you all the club would not function successfully and your contribution is truly appreciated.

### MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately, due to the sign of the times, our numbers have fluctuated over the last few years.

2017 – 193

2018 – 208

2019 – 170

2020 – 181

2021 - 180

We have set our learners classes for 2022 to begin 15/2/2022. The best way to promote our club is through word of mouth so we aim for 2022 to be a bumper year for learners. I understand Jill already has 6 names on her list for this class. If you want your friends or family to come and learn this game in 2022 now is the time to get their commitment. Jill may need some assistance with her class due to high numbers and wouldn't that be a great problem we would need to address.

This year sadly we remember our members that have passed: Ailene Vial, Fleming Jenson, Irene Warnock & Mick Perniskie. Each of whom have contributed considerably to the bridge club and their passing has been sorely felt by the club. Also at this time we remember other family and friends that have left us as well as celebrating new additions to our extended families. This is the circle of life.

### SPONSORSHIP

I wish to acknowledge the support from our sponsors. It is thanks to them we are able to hold many tournaments throughout the year. Reviewing programmes from other clubs shows how fortunate we really are, as we are able to hold sponsored tournaments on a monthly basis. So a big shout out and huge thanks to the following sponsors for their support:

- Martin & Lobb Eye Care
- Regal Floors
- ILT
- Foveaux Communications
- Avenal Park Funeral Home
- Toyworld

- Audiology South
- Southland Real Estate
- Rowena Jackson.

Without them our tournament costs would be higher and our prize pool smaller so let them know how we appreciate their support.

#### COMMITTEE

A special thanks to our committee, Greg Buzzard, Judith Lawton, Karen Palmer-Hall, Anne Somerville, Cheryl Foley, Lee Davies, Jan Brown, Jane Carroll, Janice Hodson, Bev Flint, Lindsay Glover, Megan Dowd & Barbara Martin. Also sub committees including Geoff Eyles, Jill McMeeking on Match & Grant Milne on Bar. Over the last 12 months we have had monthly meetings organizing tournaments, programmes, daily operations, payment authorisations and dealing with covid uncertainties. We are sorry to say goodbye to Barbara Martin, Bev Flint and Lee Davies who have been valuable members and will be missed.

#### LEASE/SUB LEASE

We are thankful for the sub lease arrangement with the Freemasons. Judith, Lindsay and I have met with them regularly to discuss any concerns on either side. We are able to split the running costs of the building and with their assistance the installation of heat pumps has seen a decline in our power expenses. At our latest meeting we discussed the prospect of upcoming social events between the two organisations. We could hold a bingo night or a quiz evening so watch this space as we will advise you dates and times of events during 2022.

Our current 21 year lease with the ICC is up for renewal. We are currently in negotiations with the ICC as the proposed increase has not been accepted lightly.

#### PROPERTY

Unfortunately, due to some unsavoury behavior we have needed to install security cameras inside and outside of the building. This is a necessary safeguard for any future incidents which can now be recorded and passed to the authorities. This is an unfortunate sign of the times.

#### END OF YEAR

With Christmas fast approaching the committee have been discussing Prize giving combined with a Xmas party. We are leaning towards a Sunday afternoon event on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a chance to celebrate our Prize winners and our volunteers with an afternoon tea and complimentary drink. A chance to wear some bling, eat some xmas food and relax. Let us know what you think. We may even play some cards while we listen to some festive tunes.

This brings me to the end of 2021 and I look forward to holiday bridge as we roll into 2022. We have challenging times ahead but I feel positive with the energy of the committee and members we can increase our membership and continue to achieve the objects of the club namely:

1/ to organize, provide facilities for and encourage the playing of the game of Contract Bridge in all or any of its forms and to conduct games, matches, competitions, tournaments and social gatherings in connection therewith without intention of pecuniary gain.

Sue Scott  
President